

STANDARD LOOKS GOOD

"The Standard mine never looked better than it does at the present time," says Ernest F. Warner, who is home from a trip to the multi-metalled Quartzburg mine. "An entirely new ore body has been opened up since I last visited the mine. I refer to the Copper Ridge, a vein lying parallel to the Standard lode. Also the richness of the Side Issue, another parallel fissure, has been proven beyond question. Miners are now working in ore in four parts of the mine."

I brought in a big lot of samples for assay and returns are nothing if not startling. The Side Issue is showing four feet of \$82 rock and the main Standard drift is in a gold-copper-cobalt shoot, assaying variously from \$100 up to \$800 per ton.

"The entire Quartzburg camp looks good. Zoeth Houser's Dixie mine, a free-gold proposition, is yielding handsomely. The Copperopolis gets better every day and the Dixie Meadows is one of the coming big mines of his camp."

Mr. Warner left today for Denver, having received a telegram late yesterday afternoon from D. L. Killen, requesting him to come on at once, stating that: "It's the biggest deal yet." Mr. Warner is not sure that he knows what that means, and is naturally a trifle interested to find out.

GOVERNMENT WILL DEVELOP MINE

Probably for the first time in its history, the United States government is about to develop a mineral property. The United States geological survey has set aside \$25,000 for the purpose of making a thorough and systematic investigation of the platinum deposits that are known to exist in Shasta and Trinity counties, California, and the work will be undertaken at once.

Platinum deposits in these two counties will, as a result, be uncovered by the government and it is confidently believed the exploration will result in showing up some valuable deposits.

Governor Pardee was requested some time ago to obtain the cooperation of the Washington authorities in the attempt to make a systematic effort at finding these deposits. The governor communicated with Senator George C. Perkins, from whom he received a letter Thursday, informing him that the geological survey had set aside the sum of \$25,000 for making a proper inquiry into the subject.

Josephinite, another metal found only in a very few places, also will be looked for under the appropriation.

The world's production of platinum ranges annually between 16,000 and 170,000 troy ounces, but the production of platinum in the

United States in 1903 was only 110 ounces, worth \$2,080, and even that was 16 ounces more than the output of the previous year. Russia is the fortunate country which produces about 90 per cent of the world's platinum. The remainder comes mainly from Columbia, South America.

During the year 1903, the center of interest in platinum mining in the United States shifted from Shasta and Trinity counties to southern Oregon. There, in the neighborhood of Graut's Pass and Kerby, platinum and irridosmium are found in the placer gold. Associated with the platinum and gold is another heavy mineral called josephinite, which is a natural alloy of iron and nickel. It has proven commercially profitable.

The production of 110 ounces of platinum sand does not include the platinum contained in the copper ores of the Rambler mine, Wyoming. It is interesting to note that \$6,000 worth of platinum was obtained in 1903 in the form of slimes in the treatment of the copper ore and matte from this region.

The imports of platinum during 1903 show how inadequate is our home production. The total value of imports amounted to \$2,055,933, which was distributed as follows: Unmanufactured, 1,426 pounds (\$328,103); ingots, bars, sheets and wire, 6,308 pounds (1,591,941); vases, retorts and other apparatus, vessels and parts thereof for chemical uses, \$128,890; articles manufactured of platinum, \$6,999.

It is believed that the explorations to be made by the geological survey will result in Shasta and Trinity again being made the center of the platinum industry.

Big Thing for Sumpter.

Fred R. Mellis, of Baker City, was in Sumpter between trains today, conferring with local mining men with regard to ore for display at the Lewis and Clark fair. Mr. Mellis has been appointed superintendent of the Baker county ore exhibit at the Portland exposition. He will exhibit the far-famed Mellis mineral cabinets which captured myriad medals at Buffalo, Charleston and St. Louis.

While in the city, Mr. Mellis visited the permanent home of the Sumpter district ore exhibit. "It's going to be a dandy," said he. "It will take sometime to get together a comprehensive exhibit, but if the proposition is handled right, it will be a big thing for Sumpter."

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